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HALIFAX

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Wednesday, January 18, 2012
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News worth sharing.

Accused spy still behind bars

► Will remain in jail for at least another week ► Defence Minister Peter MacKay will neither confirm nor deny alleged Russian involvement ► Still a presumption of innocence in Canada, Delisle's lawyer maintains



ALEX
BOUTILIER
@METRONEWS.CA

Canada's defence minister was tight-lipped on Tuesday concerning allegations a Halifax-based naval intelligence officer leaked information to a "foreign entity."

But Peter MacKay said the apparent security breach has not raised concerns for Canada's NATO allies.

"Let me assure that our allies have full confidence in Canada, full confidence in our information," MacKay told reporters Tuesday.

MacKay said he could not comment on the case of Sub.-Lt. Jeffrey Paul Delisle, a 40-year-old Bedford man charged under the Security of Information Act on Monday, as the matter is before the courts.

Delisle, who worked at CFB Stadacona as an intelligence officer, is facing two charges relating to communicating sensitive information to an undisclosed foreign entity and one count of breach of trust in his duties at the base.

The alleged offences occurred between July 2007 and January

Historic arrest

Jeffrey Paul Delisle is the first person to be charged under Canada's Security of Information Act, passed after the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11, 2001.

2012, according to the RCMP.

MacKay said he would neither deny nor confirm Russian involvement — a claim reported by CTV, citing unnamed sources.

"I'm not denying or confirming anything. I'm saying that there's a process that has to be followed, and public commentary from the minister of national defence is not going to assist that," he said.

Sergei Ivanov, a spokesman for the Russian Foreign Intelligence Service, refused to comment on the allegations when contacted by state-owned news agency Ria Novosti.

Delisle did not appear in a Halifax courtroom on Tuesday for a scheduled bail hearing. His lawyer, Cameron MacKeen, rescheduled it for Jan. 25. Delisle will remain in jail at the Central Nova Correctional Facility in Burnside.



► Jeffrey Paul Delisle is escorted from a Halifax provincial courthouse to a sheriff's van on Tuesday morning. The naval intelligence officer is charged with passing government secrets to a foreign entity.

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Rick Perry infuriates Turkey's government with his latest debate controversy. Watch at metronews.ca/video

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Provinces form health-care working group

Nova Scotia's premier says the provinces have time on their side in their quest to bring the federal government back to the table on health transfers.

Darrell Dexter said his provincial counterparts aim to come up with a different vision for health-care funding than the one presented by the federal government in December.

"We've got a couple of

years to lay out a path for health care in Canada," Dexter told reporters in Halifax via a teleconference late Tuesday. "We were disappointed by a federal government that refuses to enter into any discussion and is essentially absenting itself from the responsibility for a national health-care system."

He was speaking at the conclusion of a meeting of



Darrell Dexter

provincial and territorial leaders held in British Columbia over the past two days.

Over the two-day summit, the premiers committed to forming two working groups to address the innovative possibilities and fiscal realities of health care in Canada. The findings of those groups will be delivered in Halifax this July.

At the meeting the Coun-

cil of the Federation mulled over the health-care transfer model presented by federal Finance Minister Jim Flaherty in December. That model would have health transfers to the provinces continue to grow by six per cent until 2017, when they would be tied to economic growth. Premiers of provinces with weaker economies have criticized the model. ● ALEX BOUTILLIER

Gun victim faces grow-op charges

► Shooting victim, 24, and a 31-year-old woman to appear in a Halifax courtroom on Feb. 28



ALY THOMSON
HALIFAX@METRONEWS.CA

A man who was shot early Tuesday morning in Tantallon is now facing multiple charges after an investigating into the shooting led police to an alleged marijuana grow operation.

Officers executed a search warrant at a residence on Wendybrook Drive on Tuesday and found 12 marijuana plants, the Halifax RCMP say.

Police have charged a 24-year-old man and a 31-year-old woman with cultivation of marijuana and possession for the purpose of trafficking.

Earlier on Tuesday at about 1:20 a.m., officers responded to a weapons call at the same residence and found the 24-year-old

"It's scary. This is a quiet neighbourhood."

MELISSA CALNEN, A RESIDENT OF WENDYBROOK DRIVE, SAID OF THE SHOOTING

man suffering from a gunshot wound.

Police say the victim was taken to the hospital with non-life-threatening injuries and later released.

Halifax RCMP spokeswoman Const. Tammy Lobb said police do not believe the shooting is a random incident and are searching for three male suspects between the ages of 20 and 30.

She said the shooting victim and the woman charged have been released from police custody in relation to the drug charges.

About six officers and a forensic unit were walk-



► Police investigate a home on Wendybrook Drive in Tantallon on Tuesday morning after a 24-year-old man was found shot.

ing in and out of the residence at 219 Wendybrook Dr. late Tuesday morning.

Melissa Calnen, who lives just a few houses over from where the po-

lice activity was taking place, said a recently married young couple has lived in the house for about three years and have several pets.

She referred to them as "sweethearts."

"Nothing like this ever happens around here," said Calnen, in reference to the shooting incident.



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PILOT PROGRAM

Software can track seniors

Loved ones of seniors who have Alzheimer's disease or other forms of dementia may soon be able to rest a bit easier.

Halifax Regional Police have launched a pilot program designed to track people who have a history of wandering off on their own. Dubbed

Project S.O.F.T. Wear (Satellite Option Finding Technology), the department has purchased 10 watch-like devices that can track a person in real time using Internet mapping software.

Open to people 55-year-old and older, the project is available to residents of Halifax, Dartmouth and Bedford and will run for 12 months.

Police say there is no cost for participants and anyone interested is asked to call 490-2554.

● METRO

Figure eights add up on oval

Nearly 60,000 pairs of skates have carved the Emera Oval since opening in late December — that's just about half the total number of people from last season.

The HRM communications office said roughly 58,000 people have visited the oval since it opened on Dec. 23.

Last year, about 100,000

5,000 The average number of skaters on the oval per day last season.

people skated on the then-temporary surface.

This year, it's biggest day was Jan. 8, when about 8,500 headed to the Halifax Common for a skate.

● ALY THOMSON

Virus closes nursing unit to visitors

Capital Health says some patients at the QEII Health Sciences Centre are suffering from a norovirus-like illness.

Nursing unit 8.4 was closed to visitors, except for "compassionate rea-

sons," as of Tuesday evening, a news release said.

Capital Health asks members of the public not to visit nursing homes or hospitals if they are sick and also to stay away for at least three days after their symptoms end.

Symptoms of norovirus include vomiting, diarrhea and some stomach cramping.

● METRO

Historic painting off to N.Y. auction house

► Halifax Club art fixture will come under the gavel on Jan. 26

► If the 18th-century painting doesn't sell, it will come back to Halifax



JENNIFER TAPLIN
@METRONEWS.CA

For decades, Benjamin West sat on the wall — a bit of a smirk on his face — watching the camaraderie at the Halifax Club.

Now the self-portrait is in New York, awaiting a Sotheby's auction later this month.

"It's a hard thing to part with, but we found it was the right time," said Richard Bishop, president of the club located on Hollis Street.

West was born in Pennsylvania in 1738. He travelled to Britain to paint the royals, and most importantly to this country, he painted one of Canada's most important historical works: The Death of General Wolfe.

Art connoisseur Sir Maxwell Aitken, Lord Beaverbrook, who has a gallery in his name in Fredericton, gifted the painting to the club in the 1940s or '50s. No one at the club remembers or knows why Beaverbrook was so generous. Ward Skinner, club treasurer, said in correspondence with the Beaverbrook family over the years, they have acknowledged the painting as a gift and have laid no claim to it.

Sotheby's estimates the painting dates back to



► Ward Skinner, treasurer at the Halifax Club, talks with Metro in front of a replica of a self-portrait of artist Benjamin West this week. The real painting is in New York, where it will be auctioned off later this month.

"We've had couple of fires here, and the firemen know that when they come in here. They know what paintings to grab."

RICHARD BISHOP,
HALIFAX CLUB PRESIDENT

1780, when West was 42 years old.

Costs of a security alarm, insurance, as well as concerns over moisture and environmental effects

on the painting, led to the club's decision to sell the painting.

"We're not a museum and we're not an art gallery," Skinner said. "We have a masterpiece that we're having trouble maintaining."

Paying for renovations and maintenance of the club's 150-year-old building is a constant challenge. The money from the painting will therefore be welcome. There's a minimum bid of \$250,000 US, but Sotheby's estimates it

could be sold for \$350,000 US.

Skinner and Bishop hope the painting ends up in a museum instead of a private home, but anything goes at an auction.

In duplicate

► Some club members might not even notice the painting is missing: a replica now hangs in its place at the Halifax Club, using the old frame.



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Charges laid after weekend stabbing

► Saturday-night fight was second violent incident outside a Halifax-area bar in past few weeks



ALY THOMSON
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A man faces charges after a weekend stabbing at a bar in Dartmouth.

Floyd Clayton, 40, of North Preston is accused of attempted murder, aggravated assault and posses-

Seeking bail

► Floyd Clayton will appear in Dartmouth provincial court for a bail hearing on Friday.

sion of a weapon in an incident at the Old Mill Tavern. Police said Clayton turned

himself in on Monday.

The disturbance took place at about 1 a.m. on Saturday at the bar at 200 Wyse Rd. Police say a fight between several men moved from inside the bar to outside, and a 35-year-old man was stabbed several times in the torso. He is recovering in hospital.

Suspect sought in bank jobs

Halifax police are asking for help from the public in identifying a man they say robbed two banks in HRM on Tuesday afternoon.



► Police want to talk to this man about two bank robberies.

The first holdup was at Scotiabank on Lacewood Drive in Clayton Park, a fol-

lowed by a second robbery at the TD Bank on Portland Street in Dartmouth.

Police say no weapons were used, but the robber claimed to have one. Police say he should be considered armed and should not be approached. Anyone with information should contact them.

● METRO

Amherst. Lockdown



► A police officer stands watch on Tuesday outside Amherst Regional High School.

RYAN TAPLIN/METRO

Schools closed after weapon report

Amherst Regional High School was one of three Amherst-area schools placed on lockdown Tuesday after someone reported spotting a person carrying a weapon in the west end of the town. Police said nobody with a gun was found.

Man killed cutting down tree

A 57-year-old Colchester County man died on Tuesday after he was struck by a tree he was cutting down at a work site.

Colchester RCMP were called at about 11 a.m. to a sudden death in a wooded

area on Riverside Road in Green Oaks. The investigation revealed that the man died at the scene after the tree jerked out of control and struck him in the chest. His name is not being released pending noti-

fication of the next of kin.

The RCMP have turned the investigation over to the Nova Scotia Department of Labour, Occupational Health and Safety Division.

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'Go on board!' captain of doomed ship told

► **Death toll from the Costa Concordia shipwreck rose sharply on Tuesday, to 11**

"You go on board! Is that clear? Do you hear me?" the coast guard officer shouted as the captain of the grounded Costa Concordia sat safe in a life raft and frantic passengers struggled to escape after the ship rammed into a reef off the Tuscan coast.

"It is an order. Don't make any more excuses. You have declared 'Abandon ship.' Now I am in charge."

The dramatic recording made public Tuesday shows Capt. Francesco Schettino resisted orders to return to his ship to direct the evacuation, saying it was too dark and the ship was tipping perilously.

The Costa Concordia had more than 4,200 passengers and crew on board when it slammed into the reef Friday off the tiny island of Giglio after Schettino made an unauthorized manoeuvre from the ship's programmed course — apparently to

Tape recording



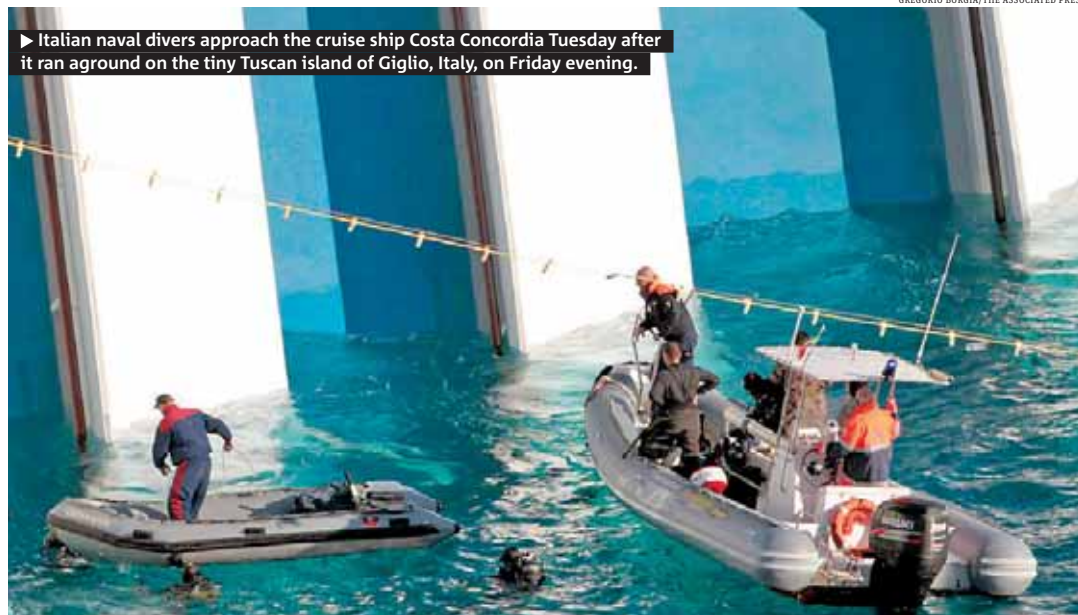
THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

► **Conversation.** At one point, in a recording of a conversation between Italian coast guard Capt. Gregorio De Falco and Francesco Schettino, pictured, De Falco vowed: "I'm going to make sure you get in trouble.... I am going to make you pay for this. Go on board, (expletive)!"

► **Arrest.** Schettino was finally heard agreeing to reboard on the tape. But the coast guard has said he never went back, and had police arrest him on land.

show off the luxury liner to the island's residents.

Schettino has insisted that he stayed aboard un-



► Italian naval divers approach the cruise ship Costa Concordia Tuesday after it ran aground on the tiny Tuscan island of Giglio, Italy, on Friday evening.

til the ship was evacuated. However, the recording of his conversation with Italian coast guard Capt. Gregorio De Falco makes clear he fled before all passengers were off — and then defied De Falco's repeated orders to go back.

"Listen Schettino," De

Falco can be heard shouting in the audio tape. "There are people trapped on board. ... You go on board and then you will tell me how many people there are. Is that clear?"

The exchange also indicates that Schettino did not know anyone had died, with De Falco telling

him at one point: "There are already bodies now, Schettino."

"How many bodies?" Schettino asks in a nervous tone.

"You are the one who has to tell me how many there are!" De Falco barks in response.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



Scan the code or go to metronews.ca to hear the full recording.

Witness at police-corruption trial says he was 'pulverized'

A key Crown witness was beaten so savagely by some of the police officers accused in a massive corruption case that he feared for his life, court heard Tuesday.

"I was semi-conscious, I was covered in blood from head to toe," said Christopher Quigley, a jewelry broker and one-time drug dealer.

"I was terrified, I really thought I was going to die. I thought it was possible they were going to kill me in this

► **Christopher Quigley appears in photos he took himself shortly after he was arrested on April 30, 1998.**



CONTRIBUTED

room."

Quigley, on the stand for a second day of the long-delayed trial of five former Toronto drug squad officers, said he was punched, kicked and choked as the officers asked where he kept his drugs and money until he lost consciousness.

"I was being pulverized," he said.

Quigley alleges the attack was unprovoked and began when the unit's head, John Schertzer, hit him across the face after he

was taken in for questioning over stolen sunglasses.

He testified that he was later subjected to three sets of beatings by another one of the accused, Ned Maodus, along with another officer who is not part of the trial.

The men have all pleaded not guilty and none of the allegations have been proven in court.

The defence will get their chance to cross-examine Quigley on Wednesday.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Dating back

► **Decade.** The case against Schertzer, Maodus, Correia, Joseph Miched and Raymond Pollard goes back more than a decade.

► **Progress.** Charges were first laid in 2004, but delays have slowed the case's progress through the courts.

U.S. Marine veteran charged in murders

The Iraq War veteran would carefully stalk each of his victims from among the thousands of homeless living in Southern California. He would then stab them repeatedly with a knife that could cut

through bone, authorities say.

For his fourth and latest victim, they say, Itzcoatl Ocampo, 23, selected a homeless man featured in a Los Angeles Times story about a killing spree that

terrorized those living on the streets for weeks.

"He was a monster," Orange County District Attorney Tony Rackauckas told reporters at a news conference.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

After Iraq

► Itzcoatl Ocampo's family said he was a troubled man after he returned from Iraq in 2008.

► Ocampo is due to appear in court on Wednesday.

Winter sports causing injuries

Thousands of Canadians end up in hospital each year after breaking bones on the ski slope or snowboard run, sustaining a concussion from a hit on the hockey rink or

5,600 The number of Canadians who were hospitalized with serious injuries related to winter sports.

suffering multiple injuries in snowmobile crashes, says the Canadian Institute for Health Information.

THE CANADIAN PRESS



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► Rona Amir Mohammad, left, and Sahar Shafia were found dead in June 2011.

Honour important to Shafia, brother testifies in murder case

► Accused's half-brother is final witness in trial that began in October

Honour is very important to a man accused of killing half of his family — allegedly in a so-called honour killing — but Mohammad Shafia is no

murderer, his half-brother said Tuesday.

Dr. Mohammad Anwar Yaqubi, in one of several outbursts in which he vehemently asserted his sibling

is innocent, suggested it's the police and prosecutors who should be in prison instead of Shafia and his co-accused wife and son.

Shafia, his wife Tooba

Yahya, 42, and their son Hamed, 21, are on trial in Kingston, Ont., charged with four counts each of first-degree murder.

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Tommy Douglas' medals up for auction

CHRIS SCHWARZ/THE CANADIAN PRESS FILE



► Tommy Douglas

Medals from socialist icon and former Saskatchewan premier Tommy Douglas are on the auction block, but his daughter hopes the collection stays together.

"I just hope that whoever buys it won't split it up and it would be wonderful if they would donate it or give it to a museum that already has a lot of his things," actor Shirley Douglas said Tuesday in a

phone interview with The Canadian Press.

The collection of medals is being auctioned off at the end of January by Jeffrey Hoare Auctions.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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Don't click on Wikipedia today

► Popular website was set to go black to protest proposed U.S. curbs ► But some editors are unhappy

Some Canadians have pledged to join Wikipedia and other big websites in going black today.

The Wednesday blackout was to be a protest against proposed anti-piracy legislation in the U.S. that could have far-reaching effects for Internet users.

The legislation could allow website addresses to be blocked when complaints are filed about copyright infringement.

Search engines could be compelled to remove links to sites accused of copyright violations.

Web payment processors and advertisers could be forced to stop doing business with alleged offenders.

Tucows, a Toronto-based

"My hope is that ... people will understand that we're doing it for our readers. We support everyone's right to freedom of thought"

**CANADIAN SUE GARDNER,
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE
WIKIMEDIA FOUNDATION**

company that manages more than 11 million domain names, planned to temporarily take down its downloading site, which hosts more than 40,000 programs.

Social media service Identi.ca was also among Canadian sites joining the likes of Boing Boing, Reddit and Wordpress in the

protest. But the planned shutdown of one of the Internet's most-visited sites was not sitting well with some of its volunteer editors.

They say the protest could threaten the credibility of their work.

"My main concern is that it puts the organization in the role of advocacy, and that's a slippery slope," said editor Robert Lawton, a Michigan computer consultant who would prefer that the encyclopedia stick to being a neutral repository of knowledge.

"Before we know it, we're blacked out because we want to save the whales."

**THE CANADIAN PRESS
AND THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

A COMPUTER IS HIS BIBLE THE HIGH PRIEST OF FILE-SHARING

The pirates of file-sharing are on a mission.

Last week, the Swedish Missionary Church of Kopimism won official recognition as a religion — and the creed of copying and spreading information is expanding around the world.

Followers have sprung up in Russia, Romania, France, the United States and Denmark. A congregation in New Zealand is also seeking legal recognition.

The Kopimists worked all of last year to be recognized as a religion in Sweden. Last week, officialdom recognized their status as a church.

"The response has been great, even outside Europe. I have been contacted by new Kopimists in India as well as Japan."



► Isak Gerson, founder and spiritual leader of the Church of Kopimism, spoke with Metro about his religion.

philosophy student Isak Gerson, 19 — founder, head of mission and supreme spiritual leader of the church — told

Metro. There are now 3,000 followers in more than 10 countries, it's claimed.

METRO WORLD NEWS



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MARK LENNIHAN/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

► Attendees at the National Retail Federation listen to a discussion about the Google Wallet Tuesday.

Goodbye cash, hello virtual wallet

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wards cards, and offers them on your smartphone.

When you check out at stores that accept Google Wallet, you can pay and redeem offers quickly just by tapping your phone at the

point of sale, and paying with your virtual credit card.

You can also buy from stores across the Internet by signing in to a Google wallet account.

Google Wallet is accepted by thousands of online merchants and payment information is securely encrypted and stored, the company's website says.

● METRO

Snow Removal in HRM

The season of snow is upon us and the safety of residents is HRM's top priority. In times of inclement weather, HRM crews will be busy working to keep the streets and sidewalks in our neighbourhoods free from snow and ice for the protection of all residents.

Plan ahead! Prepare now by securing off-street parking for when the overnight parking ban is in effect. Keeping your vehicles off the street during a winter event will improve conditions for everyone's safety and will help HRM to meet service delivery standards for snow removal.

The winter parking regulations have changed for the 2011-12 season.

- the Parking Ban, which can be implemented anytime from Dec. 15 to March 31, will ONLY be enforced during declared snow and ice operations
- when the parking ban is in effect, it will run from **1 a.m. to 6 a.m.** – ending one hour earlier than in previous years
- weather conditions and clearing operations will determine how long an overnight ban will be in effect

HRM reminds residents that provincial legislation (Section 139 of the Motor Vehicle Act) requires that people remove their vehicles from the streets, day or night, in the event of a snow or ice event. Vehicles obstructing snow removal or winter maintenance operations can be removed at the owner's cost, regardless of time or date.

HRM thanks you for your cooperation and patience. Working together we can have a safe and enjoyable winter season.



HALIFAX
REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY

For more information about the winter parking ban, service standards and priority streets



www.halifax.ca/snow



Twitter (hfxgov)



490-4000

Crown: Nortel 'scheme' like a game of Sudoku

Crown lawyers at the fraud trial of three former Nortel Networks executives say the men created a culture of dishonesty, encouraging staff to cook the books to meet bonus-related targets.

Lead prosecutor Robert Hubbard told court Tuesday that under the direction of then-CEO Frank Dunn, the use of financial reserves to bulk up flagging balance sheets was widespread.

"In terms of this cookie-jar approach to accounting, it had a long history at Nortel, it wasn't just the accused who were involved in it," Hubbard said.

Hubbard likened the alleged scheme overseen by Dunn to a game of Sudoku, in which he knew what

\$5M Three former executives are accused of defrauding Nortel of \$5 million. All have pleaded not guilty.

would trigger bonuses tied to a return to profitability and manipulated numbers.

Hubbard said Dunn, former CFO Douglas Beatty and former controller Michael Gollogly were orchestrating an "earnings management scheme" through which they held back millions of dollars of "out of balance" money so it could be reported later at their choosing. Defence opening arguments at the trial are expected Wednesday. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS



► Flaherty

Budget seeks to protect us: Flaherty

Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said Tuesday his upcoming budget will seek to address longer-term problems facing Canada, while protecting the country from external shocks in the current economic environment. News reports suggest the government is looking to limit Old Age Security benefits to qualified people at least 67 years of age, and to tackle pension plans for federal employees and elected members of Parliament. Flaherty said the budget will stick to its target of eliminating the \$32-billion federal deficit. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Low interest, more debt: Bank

Ottawa is prepared to intervene again to discourage home buying, Finance Minister Jim Flaherty said Tuesday after the Bank of Canada warned the low one per cent interest rate will likely cause Canadians to pile on more debt. **THE CANADIAN PRESS**

Market moment

TSX	Dollar
- 25.77 (12,232.83)	+ 0.27¢ (98.50¢ US)
Oil	Natural gas
+ 19¢ US (\$111.53 US)	\$2.49 US (- 18¢ US)
	Gold
	\$1,655.60 US (+ \$24.80 US)

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¹Interest is calculated and paid based on the daily account closing balance whenever the balance is \$5,000 or more. There will be no interest paid when the daily account closing balance is under \$5,000. Interest is paid monthly on the last business day of the month. ²Interest rate and offer may be changed, withdrawn or extended at any time without notice. Additional terms and conditions apply. ®Registered trade-marks of Bank of Montreal.

THE WORST IS BEHIND US

JUST SAYIN' ...

PAUL SULLIVAN
METRO



We should get a medal.

On it should be: "I survived Blue Monday."

If you're reading this, it's confirmed: you survived what is held to be the most depressing day of the year.

There's even a formula for those who don't automatically buy the idea that the third Monday in January is the most depressing day of the year. Developed by some helpful guy in Wales, it factors in weather, post-holiday bills, the grim fact that holidays are over, enthusiasm for your new year's resolution is officially on the wane, and there's that nagging feeling that if you don't do something, it's only going to get worse.

I'd add that for most of the country, the next holiday doesn't come until April 6, and there's a long stretch of another-day-older-and-deeper-in-debt until we get there.

So at least you should get a freaking medal.

I spent the most depressing day of the year in a room full of rocket scientists (don't ask) and by the end of it, I came to the conclusion that I need more RAM. But at least I got to the end of it, and by the time I turned out the light and pulled the covers over my head, I was feeling quite smug: starting tomorrow, there's nowhere to go but up.

**"Even the not-
psychologist
admits his
calculations are
meaningless. But
that hasn't
stopped media
from picking up
the story, thanks
to the time-
tested tradition
of never letting
the facts get in
the way of a
good story."**

And the same guy who calculated the most depressing day of the year has also determined the happiest day of the year, which this year for some reason is Monday, June 18.

We're happy on June 18, allegedly, because it's warm enough to go outside and play; therefore, we're closer to nature in all its early-summertime glory. We can hang out with friends without being frostbitten and even if we're miserable creatures we can remember

summers long ago when we weren't. Finally, we're almost on holiday, which is better than being fresh out of holidays.

It's all very scientific, except that it isn't. Some killjoy pointed out that the so-called expert who devised the formula is not, as often billed, a psychologist at the University of Cardiff. Even the not-psychologist admits his calculations are meaningless. But that hasn't stopped media from picking up the story, thanks to the time-tested tradition of never letting the facts get in the way of a good story.

Surely at this time of the year, we need all the encouragement we can get. And the news that we've hit rock bottom and it can only get better is welcome news indeed.

It would be even better if it came with a medal we could wear around our necks ... at least until the Easter Bunny finally saves the day.

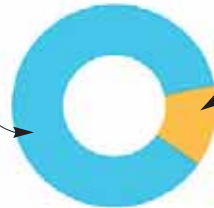
Read more of Paul Sullivan's columns at metronews.ca/justsaying



Register at
metropolitanpanel.ca
and take the quick poll

Are you afraid of yet another falling piece of space junk?

87%
NO, I'M FAR
MORE LIKELY TO
DIE BY ALMOST
ANY OTHER
MEANS



13%
YES, I HAVEN'T
YET WON THE
LOTTERY, SO I
MAY BE DUE

Local tweets



- **@plannedit:** Where is there a good strip club in #Halifax not including the dome
- **@emilymong:** it's about time #halifax is actually warmer than #russia
- **@AndrewMLA:** I remember the really good Sunday brunches the Citadel #Halifax had when I was a kid. Used to be a treat a couple times a year
- **@RobBoots:** I thought it weird that Halifax Int. Airport has rocking chairs amongst the gate seating, until I sat in one. Now I want one on the plane.
- **@bangified:** ...and two days later I'm still sore from my 1st #yoga (for beginners) class in #halifax
- **@katebray8:** Words cannot express how much I love living in #halifax. What a great place.
- **@KHart902:** Spending time with my first love #Halifax at #Starbucks :)

Daily Zoom



A gallop on fire to honour a saint

A man rides a horse through a bonfire in the small village of San Bartolomé de Pinares in Spain. In honour of St. Anthony (San Anton), the patron saint of animals, hundreds of horses are ridden through bonfires on the night before the official day of paying homage to animals. ● MWN

Then a feast of sausages after

These steeds leap through bonfires to drum beats and Spanish bagpipes until midnight, when the riding ends. By morning, when the fires have died down to embers, locals grill a feast of chorizo and blood sausage. Those taking part in the festival believe the flames and smoke "purify" the horses. ● MWN

"I myself remember from childhood this is how the village elders and I prayed to St. Anthony."

SAN BARTOLOMÉ MAYOR MARIA JESUS MARTIN TOLD LOCAL MEDIA. FOR CENTURIES AN EPIDEMIC WIPED OUT REGIONAL WORKHORSES. RESIDENTS THEN PRAYED TO ST. ANTHONY FOR PROTECTION BY BURNING AN EFFIGY AT THE STAKE AS A SYMBOL OF PURIFICATION.

200

200 horses, as well as dogs, cats, pigs, birds and even ferrets, took part in San Bartolomé's annual blessing of the animals.

Is the comic book movie well starting to run dry?

► Nicolas Cage rides back into theatres as Ghost Rider in mid-February ► With tier-two comic book heroes getting hit up for a sequel, it begs the question: After a decade-long spandex-and-leather blockbuster boom, are there any comic book film adaptations left in the tank?



Green Arrow

This B-league bow-master has been hitting hard targets since 1941, but outside of fan-boy circles he might as well be a contestant on American Archer. Not only does Green Arrow borrow from Robin Hood's wardrobe but he also shares the Englishman's penchant for the redistribution of wealth.

Movie Buzz: Years back, Kevin Smith's name was bandied about in connection with an Arrow movie. More recently NY Times best-selling author Brad Meltzer has dropped hints that he'd be down to pen the script.

Odds of ever making the big screen: Slim as a solo deal but sky-high in a Justice League of America (JLA) live-action flick.



Captain Canuck

The Cap is a well-mannered Mountie who acquires super-strength after a run-in with some aliens while camping. He then dons red-and-white spandex with a maple leaf emblazoned on his forehead while tangling with baddies. In its original incarnation the series was set in a future world where Canada had become, according to the first issue, "the most important country in the world."

Movie Buzz: Mind's Eye Entertainment owns the film rights and plans on developing the project with the cooperation of series creator Richard Comely.

Odds of ever making the big screen: Pretty good, eh.



Aquaman

The often-parodied super-swimmer has been breathing underwater and having telepathic conversations with fish, mollusks and other sea life since 1941. Ventriloquist and comedian Jeff Dunham points out that Aquaman has the same powers as SpongeBob SquarePants.

Movie Buzz: If Shaq could suit up and play Steel, there's no reason why Michael Phelps couldn't dye his hair blonde and start chatting up some beluga whales.

Odds of ever making the big screen: While HBO's Entourage featured the making of an Aquaman action movie with James Cameron, the underwater hero doesn't get that caliber of Hollywood love in real life.



Flash

In the comic book world the mantle of the fastest man alive has been held by Jay Garrick, Barry Allan, Wally West and Bart Allen. A mainstay in the T-shirt wardrobe of Big Bang Theory's Dr. Sheldon Cooper, Flash has remained fashion forward in geek circles for more than 70 years.

Movie Buzz: Fan-boys are chirping a mile a minute and "Rock the Lightning" would be a great poster tagline.

Odds of ever making the big screen: In 1990-91 CBS ran a single season of The Flash starring John Wesley Ship. But if there's ever a JLA movie, Warner Bros. will greenlight a Flash solo joint in a red-hot minute.



Black Panther

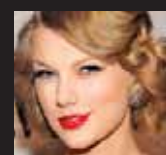
Beyond Wesley Snipes vamping it up in Blade movies, there haven't been too many mainstream African-American superhero movies. Created by Stan Lee and Jack Kirby in 1966, Black Panther — the protector of the fictitious African nation of Wakanda — is the Jackie Robinson of superheroes laying the groundwork for all that followed including Luke Cage, Falcon, Storm and Spawn.

Movie Buzz: Some small murmurs a the moment. **Odds of ever making the big screen:** They'd need to get creative with the title, otherwise many would assume the movie was about the radical organization of the same name. ● MIKE DOJC

2

scene

In brief



Should Jake Gyllenhaal be worried? Taylor Swift graces the cover of Vogue's February issue and tells the magazine her next album will be about an "absolute crash-and-burn heartbreak" she experienced. The 22-year-old singer doesn't name names, but she did date Gyllenhaal in 2010.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS




Marvel says creativity, compelling stories will drive comics again in 2012.

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Paula Deen: Now is 'God's time' to make some cash

- The queen of unhealthy cooking reveals she has Type 2 diabetes
- Interesting that she just got a sweet deal to promote a diabetes drug...

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA



Thanks to a super scoop by The Daily, it's been known that celebrity chef of all things fattening — deep-fried butter balls, Velveeta fudge, and butter, mayo, and whiz spread, to name just a few of her recipes — Paula Deen had developed Type 2 diabetes and would soon go on a publicity blitz about the diagnosis.

Well, that whirlwind media tour happened yesterday when she went on The Today Show as well as grant an interview to USA Today. Although she's apparent-

ly been diabetic for over two years (while continuing to shill her high-fat, high-calorie cooking), she decided to go public now because, as she puts it, it wasn't "God's time" when she first learned she was sick.

"I felt like I had nothing to offer anybody other than the announcement. I wasn't armed with enough knowledge. I knew when it was time, it would be in God's time," she told USA Today.

Interestingly enough, for Deen, "God's time" means "time to finagle a lucrative contract with a makers of a diabetes drug." As, oh yes, Deen used that lull to sign on as a sponsor for the diabetes medicine Victoza. A new website featuring Deen as their spokesperson



► Paula Deen

also launched Monday.

Deen doesn't want to say how much money she's making off the deal.

She tells USA Today, "Talking about money is garish. It's tacky. But, of course, I've been compen-

sated for my time. That's the way our world works."

Is it just me, or is it also garish and tacky to continue to shill your junk food to people even though you know it can make them sick — like it did you?

Celebrity tweets



Ever feel like you can fall asleep in 1.5 seconds 2 hrs after u wake up? It's 1 of those days.



@jessicaalba



@Joan_Rivers

Madonna reveals that she "didn't stand in front of a mirror and say I'll only date young men". No, she said it on the way to Chuck E Cheese.



@chriscolfer

I was just called "Mama" at a first birthday party. Not sure how I feel about this...



@ActuallyNPH

I've found a new TV obsession: Celebrity Big Brother UK. Can't stop watching YouTube videos! I so badly want to partake!

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Aruba: One happy island

► Aruba has some of the best beaches in the Caribbean and it's outside the hurricane zone ► But there's more to this island than the beach



VAVN
HIMMELSBACH
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

Aruba, a tiny island only 25 kilometres from the Venezuelan coastline, is known for its turquoise water and white sandy beaches. But, unlike many of its Caribbean neighbours, it hasn't been taken

over by all-inclusive resorts and all of its beaches are public.

It's safe, easy to get around, and you'll find hundreds of restaurants, bars and nightclubs in Oranjestad, the island's picturesque capital, so you won't be stuck eating at the same buffet table every day.

What to do

If you can manage to tear yourself away from your poolside lounge chair and mojito, there's no shortage of easily accessible activities on the island — scuba diving, snorkeling, windsurfing, kitesurfing, sea kayaking, water skiing and sailing, to name just a few. There's also hiking, quad trekking and sunset horseback riding in the island's national park. As for beaches, Eagle Beach and Palm Beach are among the best beaches in the Caribbean, perfect for swimming and sunbathing.



For windsurfing/kitesurfing: To take advantage of the near-constant trade winds, head to Boca Grandi, Malmok, Grapefield or Fisherman's Huts.



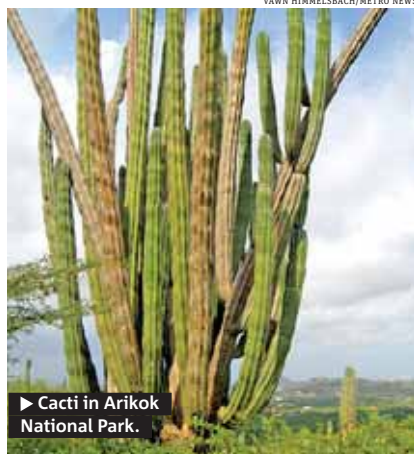
COURTESY ARUBA TOURISM AUTHORITY

► All of Aruba's beaches are public.

Diving and snorkeling

Aruba is the wreck diving capital of the Caribbean with more than 20 wreck sites off of the coast just waiting to be explored — including the German freighter Antilla, from the Second World War. Whether you're a novice or advanced diver, you can spot a range of aquatic life. Several outfitters such as De Palm Tours and Red Sail Sports offer catamaran trips to the island's best snorkeling spots.

VAVN HIMMELSBACH/METRO NEWS



► Cacti in Arikok National Park.

Aruba for land lovers

For non-aquatic adventure, head to Aruba's national park, Arikok National Park, a protected area that covers 18 per cent of the island.

Here you'll find more than 32 kilometres of hiking trails among several species of cacti (go on your own or on a guided tour with one of the knowledgeable park rangers), as well as historical sites, limestone caves with Amerindian pictographs, and the pounding surf of Dos Playa, ideal for surfing and bodyboarding.

► VAVN HIMMELSBACH

Where to eat

Thankfully, Aruba offers a lot more than the all-inclusive buffet. In fact, there are several hundred options, from high-end dining to local seafood shacks.

Papiamento Restaurant:

Join the Ellis family in their 175-year-old manor house for upscale dining in a tropical garden setting. Try the local specialty Keshi Yena, made with minced tenderloin and chicken stewed with prunes, raisins and cashews, topped with Dutch cheese.

Cuba's Cooking: You'll find genuine Cuban cuisine in one of the oldest houses of historic downtown Oranjestad, including ropa vieja, picadillo and palomilla steak — and one of the best bolero singing pairs outside of Havana.

Zeeroovers Fish Bar: Head to this typical Aruban fisherman's bar in Savaneta for freshly caught fish and shrimps — this is where the locals go for the catch of the day. Forks are optional.

VAVN HIMMELSBACH/METRO NEWS



► Zeeroover's Fish Bar.

Events

January-March, Carnival: This is Aruba's biggest party of the year, complete with street parties and parades, flamboyant costumes and fantastic music.

May, Aruba Soul Beach Music Festival: This star-studded, two-night concert series has previously featured India Arie, Alicia Keys and Jennifer Hudson. For more, visit soulbeach.net.

June, Aruba International Film Festival: Actors, producers and film-makers from around the world will descend on Aruba for eight days to celebrate international film. For more, visit arubafilmm.com.

November, Aruba in Style (Fashion Week): Don't miss this yearly fashion, entertainment and lifestyle event — a mix of trendy fashion shows, glamorous parties and shopping.

Where

to stay...

► The newly renovated Radisson Aruba Resort, Casino & Spa is the hotel group's flagship property, situated on 15 acres alongside Palm Beach.

► The Radisson's Sunset Grille is the only restaurant on the island that has achieved AAA Four Diamond status; try the prime rib or fresh seafood.

3

life

Travel in brief



Wild Women Expeditions is celebrating its 22nd season in operation with adventures in every region of Canada. What started in 1991 as an all-women canoe tripping company has expanded across Canada is now offering kayak, flatwater and whitewater canoe, hiking, cycling, surfing and yoga adventures. One of their newest offerings is the Wild Yoga Retreats in Gros Morne, Nfld., and Bay of Fundy, N.B. From June through to September, many expeditions are available. The complete schedule is available online at wildwomenexp.com/calendar.

► METRO



Dare to Wear Love museum exhibit features Canadian fashions inspired by Africa

The stars of Jasper

► Jasper National Park is the 'Disney World' of dark sky preserves, according to one well-known astronomer

Peter McMahon has stars in his eyes. His head is in the clouds. McMahon is one of Canada's best-known astronomers, and certainly the most media savvy. He's travelled around the world to follow his dream of travelling among the stars.

So when he says that "Jasper National Park is becoming the Disney World of dark sky preserves," he means it in a good way.

McMahon was in Jasper for its first-ever Dark Sky Festival — a weekend of events in October celebrating Jasper National Park's designation at the world's largest — and darkest — dark sky preserve. Jasper turns out to be one of the best places in the world to get lost in space.

So it seems strange that his guided tour of the heavens is taking place on a

bright sunny morning. McMahon is sparkling with enthusiasm and aims his telescope at the faint daytime moon hanging over a mountain known as The Whistlers. When it comes to gazing at the moon, everything is much clearer in the light of day.

When evening falls, it's time to go to the mobile Telus Planetarium — a sort of inflatable igloo that magically transforms the inside of a school gym into a high-tech dome for taking a star trek. Tyson Wagner from the Telus World of Science in Edmonton is the storyteller.

Using the dome of the inflatable igloo as his drawing board, Wagner points out Cassiopeia — the Greek queen whose vanity and beauty invokes the jealousy of the gods. To the north is

her husband, King Cepheus. And to the south, their daughter Andromeda. To the southeast is Perseus.

When darkness has covered the land, it's off to Pyramid Lake, about 10 minutes away from the town of Jasper and a galaxy away from the city lights. But the night skies are cloudy and gloomy and not at all hopeful. There are stars in the southern sky but you can't see them.

But a West Wind blows and pulls back the curtain of clouds covering the northern sky. And there they are, larger than life: Cassiopeia, Perseus, Medusa, and Pegasus. There's also Hercules. And finally, the crowning glory: Jupiter, king of the gods, is rising over the crest of the Colin range.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Almonds' sweet side

► These Almond Butter Crunch cookies have a great texture thanks to almond butter and roasted almonds

Preparation:

1 Preheat oven to 350°F (180°C) and line baking sheet with parchment paper.

2 In bowl, using electric mixer, beat almond butter, butter, brown sugar, egg and almond extract until light and fluffy.

3 In separate bowl, combine flour, baking soda and salt. Add flour into creamed mix slowly until well blended. Stir in diced almonds. Cover with plastic wrap and refrigerate 30 mins.

4 Form into 1-inch (2.5 cm) balls and place on baking sheet; flatten with fork. Bake on centre rack in oven 12 mins or until lightly browned. Cool on baking sheet for few min-



► The recipe makes about 50 cookies.

utes before transferring cookies to a wire rack.
ALMOND BOARD OF CALIFOR-

NIA/ NEWS CANADA/ ADAPTED
BY EMILY RICHARDS (VISIT
EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)

Ingredients:

- 1 cup (500 mL) creamy almond butter
- 1/2 cup (250 mL) butter
- 1 cup (500 mL) brown sugar
- 1 egg

- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) pure almond extract
- 1 1/2 cups (375 mL) flour
- 1/2 tsp (2 mL) baking soda
- 1/4 tsp (1 mL) salt
- 1/2 cup (250 mL) diced roasted almonds



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Vacations

Las Vegas Air + 3 Nights
\$439
from
+ taxes & fees \$217

INCLUDES accom on the Strip.
UPGRADE to 4.5-star accom from \$13 per night.
ADD Champagne Rock Star Tour from \$49.

New York City Air + 3 Nights from **\$634**
+ taxes & fees \$113

INCLUDES accom in Times Square. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from \$40 per night. **ADD** Empire State Building from \$21.

London Air + 7 Nights from **\$650**
+ taxes & fees \$614

INCLUDES central accom near Kensington, Chelsea and Knightsbridge. **ADD** Shakespeare's exhibit and Globe tour from \$16.

Thailand
Air + 8 Nights 4-Star from **\$1069**
+ taxes & fees \$511

INCLUDES Bangkok accom near shopping, business and entertainment districts.

Central America
Air + 13-Day Tour from **\$1409**
+ taxes & fees \$329

INCLUDES all airfare and 13-day tour.
HIGHLIGHTS San Jose, Cahuita National Park, Boquete and Panama City.

Valentine's Day Weekend

Niagara Falls
Air + 2 Nights
\$494
from
+ taxes & fees \$141

INCLUDES airfare to Toronto, roundtrip transfers and accom on Falls Ave. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from \$12 per night. **ADD** deluxe winery tour from \$117.

Toronto Air + 3 Nights from **\$434**
+ taxes & fees \$158

INCLUDES central accom steps from Yorkville, entertainment and shopping. **UPGRADE** to 4.5-star Fairmont accom from \$21 per night. **ADD** Niagara Falls excursion from \$146.

Montreal Air + 3 Nights from **\$444**
+ taxes & fees \$150

INCLUDES central accom near the Bell Centre. **UPGRADE** to 4.5-star Fairmont accom from \$12 per night.

March Break

Orlando Family Special
Air + 7 Nights from **\$699**
+ taxes & fees \$130

INCLUDES family-style accom near Old Town. Price per person based on family of 4. **UPGRADE** to 4-star accom from \$21 per night. **ADD** Legoland from \$83.

All-inclusive Vacations

Bahamas 3 Nights 3.5-Star
\$209
from
+ taxes & fees \$291

UPGRADE to the 4.5-star Sheraton Nassau Beach Resort and Casino from \$49 per night.

Puerto Plata 7 Nights 3.5-Star from **\$637**
+ taxes & fees \$383

Dominican Republic
7 Nights 3.5-Star from **\$835**
+ taxes & fees \$382

INCLUDES Santo Domingo accom.

Varadero 7 Nights 4-Star from **\$1025**
+ taxes & fees \$289

UPGRADE to the 5-star Riu Varadero from \$22 per night.

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7 Nights 4.5-Star from **\$1096**
+ taxes & fees \$110

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WORKERS NOT ALWAYS THE INNOCENTS

► We're quick to pick the big boss out as the office enemy ► But employee misconduct must not be overlooked

WORKPLACE LAW

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Sure employers' have money-saving workplace law schemes, designed to keep money in their own pockets and less in their employees. However, employees also have some tricks up their sleeves. Here are some of my favourites:

Alleged constructive dismissals:

Many employees, unhappy with their jobs and their employers, will conjure up perceived workplace injustices in an effort to leave and collect severance. Some of these claims are meritorious — many are not. Worse, in a number of cases, these employees have already received another job offer, and therefore, have no right to compensation no matter how long or commendable their service.

Mitigation:

The single biggest source of

employer mistrust with employees is with those who are no longer employed but are still on their payroll receiving severance — and for good reason. Ex-employees who are receiving severance are required to report any job offers or any income they receive, which would then eliminate further payments. Many do not and they usually get away with it.

Harassment claims:

Today, a tough boss can no longer criticize employees without fear of a human rights or harassment complaint.

This is because liberalized human rights laws and employee-friendly human rights tribunals often extend legal protection to even superficial harassment claims. Employees, aware of employers' fears, can illegitimately assert they were "harassed" when something did not go their way and they frequently do, as a means to achieve a right or benefit they did not otherwise deserve.

Loyalty:

Most employers believe that unhappy ex-employees will stop at nothing to derail them. However, the biggest workplace conspirators often come from in-

side.

These employees strategize about competing but while still employed. They steal confidential data and take steps to cripple their com-

pany — and then swiftly leave for a rival.

Malingers:

If you ask just about anyone what the biggest

problem with workplace law is today, most will invariably announce that disability cheaters are at the top of their list.

Although they are few in their numbers, their

scams are often magnificent ones as they find ways to get paid, without ever having to go to work.

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- Ur turns stellar university career at Dalhousie into professional soccer opportunity
- Halifax native one of 100 players who will try out at USL PRO combine later this month

Ready to test his limits



MATTHEW WUEST
@METRONEWS.CA

Ben Ur always wanted to be a soccer player.

Even after his parents enrolled him in hockey when they moved from England to Canada when he was four, and even after he became a Halifax Hawks AAA mainstay all the way up to bantam, the multi-sport standout preferred the pitch to the icy cold rink.

Finally, when he was going into Grade 12, he ditched skates for good.

"At the end of the day, I realized soccer was my passion," Ur says. "Not that I regret playing hockey — it was a hard decision — but in the back of my mind, soccer was the sport I really loved to play."

A forward in hockey, self-described as "defensive minded" albeit "all over the place," Ur ended up as a goalkeeper after several years in soccer.

"I wasn't too good of an 'out' player, so I just got relegated to the net," says Ur, who first laced up cleats at age 10.

He hasn't looked back since. Although he passed on opportunities to play for Nova Scotia's youth teams because of his com-



► Halifax goalkeeper Ben Ur heaves the ball during an EastLink Premiership game last summer.

mitment to hockey, Ur has become one of the province's best keepers after a stellar five-year career with the Dalhousie Tigers.

The six-foot-two 205-pounder has a wide wingspan and is an imposing presence inside the 18-yard box. His willingness to do anything to stop the ball gets him in trouble at

times — he's suffered multiple concussions — but he says that's part of the job.

"When the ball's in your area, you just have to imagine there's nobody there besides you when you're going after it," says Ur, who is finishing up a degree in political science and history.

"You've got to be a little bit crazy to be a goalie,"

adds Tigers head coach Pat Nearing, "and he certainly possesses that characteristic."

The 22-year-old also boasts a thundering foot and scored twice in late-game situations for the Tigers, knocking home a game-winning corner kick last fall and a 70-yard free kick in 2010.

"He can kick the ball a

By the numbers

Ben Ur's career highlights:

- Four AUS all-star selections in five seasons at Dalhousie, capped with a first-team all-Canadian nod last fall.
- Won an AUS championship with Dal in 2009 and an EastLink Premiership provincial title with Halifax Dunbrack in 2010.
- Posted 19 shutouts in past three EastLink Premiership seasons and earned three all-star nods.

mile," says Nearing. "It's a professional-level kick."

Not only is Ur's kick at a pro level, Nearing says his physical tools and work ethic are, too, and that Ur just needs more game experience. The United Soccer Leagues PRO circuit has taken note, inviting Ur to its tryout combine in Bradenton, Fla., from Jan. 26 to 29.

It's an opportunity to get paid to play the game he loves.

"Playing pro would be something I'd love to do," Ur says. "It's one of those things where I'll find out if I can do it or maybe it's something I need more work on. It will be nice to see where my skills fit in."

Jimmo to miss first bout of UFC career

The UFC debut of Ryan Jimmo is on hold due to an ankle injury.

Jimmo, a former Halifax resident who was scheduled to face Karlos Vemola on Friday as part of UFC on FX in Nashville, Tenn., reportedly suffered the injury while training.

The 30-year-old has won 16 straight fights since losing his mixed-martial arts debut in 2007. He has held the Maximum Fighting Championship light-heavyweight belt since last February, successfully defending that crown with victories in April and Octo-

ber.

Jimmo, a Saint John, N.B., native who moved to Halifax in 2006 for mixed-martial arts training, fought four times in Halifax during the first two years of his career. He now lives and trains in Edmonton. ● METRO

Sports in brief

SMU earn CIS top-10 spot

CIS HOCKEY. The Saint Mary's Huskies are back in the Canadian Interuniversity Sport men's hockey top-10 after beating the top-ranked UNB Varsity Reds last weekend. The Huskies, tied for second in Atlantic University Sport at 12-7-1, also beat the UP-

EI Panthers and grabbed 10th spot in this week's ranking. ● METRO

Lincecum's Giant request

MLB. Tim Lincecum asked San Francisco for \$21.5 million US in arbitration, just shy of the record for a player, and the Giants offered him a club-record \$17 million Tuesday, a day when 79 players agreed to contracts.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Australian Open in pictures

PHOTOS
1. CLIVE BRUNSKILL/GETTY IMAGES
2. MARK KOLBE/GETTY IMAGES
3. CAMERON SPENCER/GETTY IMAGES



1

Thornhill's Milos Raonic crushed Italian Filippo Volandri, 6-4, 6-0, 6-2, on Tuesday and joined fellow Canadians Aleksandra Wozniak and Stephanie Dubois in the second round.

2

Li Na advanced to the third round with a 6-2, 6-2 win over Olivia Rogowska on Wednesday, her best run at a major since her breakthrough win at the French Open.

3

Novak Djokovic started his Australian Open defence with a 6-2, 6-0, 6-0 win over Paolo Lorenzi of Italy. Andy Murray, who lost last year's final to Djokovic, struggled early before beating American Ryan Harrison 4-6, 6-3, 6-4, 6-2.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

'I hate bugs more than you can imagine'

► Insects, not injured ankle or late start, irk Serena

If anything, it was the insects buzzing around Rod Laver Arena that bugged Serena Williams the most.

The injured left ankle held up fine in her opening match Tuesday at the Australian Open, and even the near-midnight start time was OK. But the bugs?

"I hate bugs more than you can imagine," Williams said after reaching the second round by beating Tamira Paszek 6-3, 6-2. "Like, they kept jumping on me. Yuck!"

The match started at 11:32 p.m., and Williams hit a service winner 1 hour, 19 minutes later to finish it off. In between points, though, she picked up and moved or shooed away bugs that landed on court, and two that landed on her back. A big one gave her a



► Serena Williams

fright, making her hop as she tried to stifle a screech.

"I'm going to request not to play at night anymore because I hate bugs, except for the final. I heard it's at night," Williams said. "I'll try to get used to them."

Two years after she won her last Australian Open title, Williams extended her winning streak to 15 matches at Melbourne Park in the season's first major tournament. She won back-

to-back titles in 2009 and 2010, but missed the chance to defend her title last year amid a prolonged injury layoff.

The late start was because Williams had to wait until the conclusion of a 4-hour men's night match won by Leyton Hewitt. And it was her first match since badly spraining her ankle two weeks ago at the Brisbane International, an injury that jeopardized her participation in Melbourne. Monday was the first time she was able to practice pain free, but she still had her lower left leg and ankles heavily taped.

"I don't let anything bother me," she said. "It's definitely different to have the ladies play so late, you know, so we'll see."

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[illegible]

Extra help, when needed

Unlike full-hybrid systems that can operate in electric mode only or in tandem with a gasoline engine counterpart, the eAssist's electric motor/generator, which takes the place of a traditional belt-driven alternator, kicks in when extra thrust is needed.

The only time the duo isn't in operation occurs when coasting downhill, while stopped at a light or in the throes of full-on traffic gridlock. Then, the gasoline engine shuts down to conserve fuel, leaving the electric side to run all the necessary accessories, such as the air conditioning.

When the light turns green or the way is clear, the engine fires up once the brake pedal is released.

Power outputs

The eAssist electric motor-generator, now standard on all LaCrosse models, replaces the traditional alternator and draws on a lithium-ion battery pack to boost the 182-horsepower (and 172 pound-feet of torque) 2.4-litre gasoline engine by an additional 15 horsepower and 110 pound-feet or torque.

It also generates an additional 15 kilowatts of power by recovering the energy produced from braking and converting it into electrical energy to help recharge the batteries.



► The LaCrosse is one of Buick's better-looking vehicles and is the largest. Still, it has a four-cylinder base engine that arrives with standard eAssist that adds just 15 horsepower under acceleration, but also 110-pound-feet of torque. The combination is rated at 8.0 l/100 km in the city, 5.4 highway.

Bigger doesn't always mean better for Buick

MALCOLM GUNN
DRIVE@METRONews.ca
WHEELBASE MEDIA

For traditional Buick lovers, their world must seem a truly bewildering place.

Buyers of the brand's big floaty sedans used to shop for Park Avenues, LeSabres and, until recently, Lucernes.

But that large barge has now sailed, taking with it the last vestiges of what once made Buick the final word in upper-mid-range opulence.

General Motors has retooled its formerly moribund Buick brand and infused it with some particularly tasty small-scale products that offer style and fuel economy, while placing trailer-towing ca-

capacity in the forget-about-it bucket.

Other than the popular Enclave wagon, the largest vehicle in the fleet is now the LaCrosse, a model that received a complete makeover for the 2010 model year and is currently one of the classiest looking four-doors around.

But following two years in service, there are major changes in store for this model, as well as its Regal relation, that promise to make both models significantly more fuel efficient.

The upgrade is called eAssist, a name that describes what GM calls its "light electrification" technology, but in other circles is best described as a mild hybrid.

► A dash-mounted display advises the driver when the battery is charging and when the electric motor is in play.



► An electric motor takes the place of the alternator and applies an extra 15 horsepower via a ribbed belt. The 115-volt lithium-ion power pack within the silver box weighs about as much as a typical 12-volt automotive battery.

Buick LaCrosse



What you should know about the 2012 Buick LaCrosse:

- **Types:** Four-door, front-/all-wheel-drive sedan.
- **Engine (hp):** 2.4-litre DOHC I4 (182) with electric motor (15); 3.6-litre DOHC V-6 (303).
- **Transmission:** Six-speed automatic.
- **Market position:** The LaCrosse represents a compromise in hybrid vehicles as it doesn't operate exclusively on battery power. However its impressive fuel economy combines with plenty of luxury features at a reasonable price.
- **Mileage:** L/100 km (city/hwy) 8.0/5.4 (2.4).

5 drive

By comparison

Lincoln MKZ

Base price: \$40,000
Stylish Ford Fusion-based model offers all-wheel-drive and hybrid versions.

Nissan Maxima

Base price: \$39,500
Great looks and sporty demeanor complement its impressive V-6 power.

Toyota Avalon

Base price: \$42,700
Camry-based sedan is geared to older drivers looking for a softer ride.

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JUSTIN PRITCHARD
DRIVE@METRONews.CA

Available in wagon (Sport-Combi) and sedan configurations, the most recent Saab 9-5 benefitted from a loyal but niche owners community who bought the machine largely for its distinctive character, refinement and exclusivity.

This isn't a car you'll see every day. The latest complete generation of the Saab 9-5 was available to Canadian shoppers from model years 2006 to 2009.



2006 to 2009 Saab 9-5

Engine

All models were powered by a 2.3-litre four-cylinder engine with turbocharger, which generated 260 horsepower. Transmissions were all five-speed units in the driver's choice of manual or automatic.



What owners like

Many online 9-5 drivers have numerous positive things to say about their rides. Styling, mileage, refinement, ride quality, handling and spaciousness are all highly rated.



What owners dislike

Complaints centre around rattles as the vehicle ages, a lack of cupholders and a "cheap" feel to some of the vehicle — including the doors. Easily-marked plastic surfaces within the cabin are also noted.



Common issues

Pop the hood and check the condition of the 9-5's engine oil.

Numerous owners have reported engine failure as a result of oil sludge — a problem which could be amplified if the factory oil-change schedule wasn't adhered to.

Sputtering acceleration or lumpy power delivery at moderate or full throttle could be the result of a problem with an ignition system component.

Verdict

The 9-5 has a list of issues to be aware of — though many an owner say these are far outweighed by a great driving experience, generous performance and overall comfort. A dealer-serviced 9-5 with proof of frequent oil-changes and remaining warranty is your safest bet.

YOUNG BUYERS FREAK OUT AUTOMAKERS

AUTO PILOT



MIKE GOETZ
DRIVE
@METRONews.CA

How do you sell cars to people who are only mildly interested in cars? I thought maybe with mild cars, mild advertising and mild salespeople. But apparently that's incorrect.

Truth be told, automakers are just learning how to appeal to the next big group of auto buyers — young people who love their digital world a lot more than the automotive world.

At this year's auto show in Detroit, Chevrolet introduced a couple of concepts aimed squarely at this "not really crazy about cars" generation.

But before it did, John McFarland, leader of GM's Global Youth Strategy,

▶ Chevrolet recently introduced two concepts in Detroit — the Tru 140S, pictured, and the Code 130R. They are aimed specifically at young people.



shared some research it unearthed about this new group of buyers.

For starters, it's a big group — in the U.S. alone, young consumers are 80 million strong, and represent 40 per cent of the potential car buying market.

The key word there is "potential."

Many are just not getting their licenses when they turn 16. For them, the signal that they've made it to adulthood is not getting behind the wheel, but getting behind a smartphone.

Also, their digital world provides social experi-

ences that were previously only possible by leaving the driveway.

But all is not lost. While many are disinterested in purchasing a new car right away, many feel the other way. After talking to over 9,000 young customers, GM concluded that nearly 40 per cent ARE interested in cars; in the U.S. that translates to 32 million potential young customers.

All well and good, but even these car-interested types have very unique views on car brands. Basically most car brands aren't turning their crank.

This is in contrast to their passion and emotional connection to other tech brands, like Apple, Google, and Facebook, as well as to brands such as Nike and Target.

According to McFarland, auto brands fall in the middle of their brand-love rankings, "somewhere around disinterest and complacency."

And to punctuate the complacency, he offered this anecdote: He asked a young woman in California about her car. She was very complimentary about it. When he probed further, and asked if she actually loved the car, she said, "Well, the best way I can describe it, is it's kinda like an ugly boyfriend, you know? It's been good to me, but the second something better comes along ... it's out the door."

So car brands, like Chevrolet, who target this audience, have their work cut out for them. Lots of back and forth is needed, said McFarland.

Young buyers are particularly interested in a vehicle's connectivity.

According the Chevro-

let, they're also interested in being involved in the design process. That's why the two concepts revealed in Detroit — the Tru 140S and Code 130R — have no interiors. GM has ideas for the interiors, and how to approach their connectivity and infotainment systems, but before it locks into a certain approach, it's inviting a whole bunch of young people to offer some input, through kiosks at auto shows, and bringing the vehicles to where young people hang out.

"Crowd sourcing," so to speak.

Oh yeah, almost forgot about the cars. Both are four-door sport coupes, because young folk like sports cars, but want to bring their friends along too. Both are also fuel efficient, with 1.4-litre turbo engines. The front-drive Tru 140S channels the "Italian exotic car" vibe, while the rear-drive Code 130R channels a "muscle car" vibe.

I like the red one, even though I'm not sure I'm allowed to ... not in the demographic apparently.

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Tenders

Tenders

MAINTENANCE AND MINOR IMPROVEMENT SERVICES
ON MARRIED MILITARY QUARTERS
AT 14 WING GREENWOOD, NOVA SCOTIA

As a Special Operating Agency of the Department of National Defence (DND), the Canadian Forces Housing Agency (CFHA) is responsible for managing DND family housing, including the provision of maintenance and minor improvement services.

Defence Construction Canada (DCC), on behalf of the CFHA is calling for the submission of tenders for maintenance and minor improvement work on family housing units at 14 Wing Greenwood, Nova Scotia. The work will be done under Standing Offers (SO) on an "as requested" basis. The SOs will be in place from **April 1, 2012 to March 31, 2014** (two years), with an option to extend for two additional one-year periods.

SOs will be established for maintenance and minor improvement work in the following trades: tile, resilient sheet flooring and carpet, carpentry, roofing, plumbing, electrical, hardwood floors, cleaning, painting, concrete and asphalt, grass cutting, landscaping and tree service, pest control, snow removal, and heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC). Firms that consider themselves qualified to provide residential housing maintenance and minor improvement services, are invited to contact DCC at Tel: **(902)765-1494 ext. 5436** to obtain the list of work packages.

Those wishing to obtain the tender documents for providing any of the packaged residential housing maintenance and minor improvement services must place an order with MERX by logging on their website: www.merx.com or by calling **1 (800) 964-MERX (6379)**.

THE TENDER DOCUMENTS WILL BE AVAILABLE ONLY THROUGH MERX DISTRIBUTION.

The tender closing date is: **February 7, 2012** for all packaged services projects
The tender closing time is: **14:00 hours**, local time, for all packaged services projects
Sealed tenders will be received at the following location:

DCC Greenwood Site Office
Hangar 5
P.O. Box 39
14 Wing Greenwood
Nova Scotia
B0P 1N0



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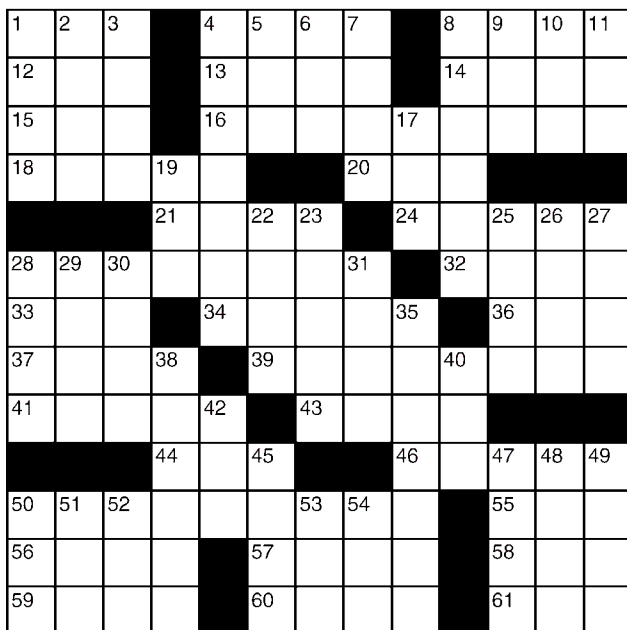
Crossword

Across

- 1 \$ dispenser
4 Two-way
8 Use a really old telephone
12 Payable
13 Therefore
14 A Great Lake
15 "CSI" evidence
16 Karate level
18 Popular condiment
20 That girl
21 — Stanley Gardner
24 Lightheaded
28 Winter road hazard
32 Pop
33 Help
34 Urban palls
36 Chum
37 Huff and puff
39 Shiner
41 Bewildered
43 Concept
44 Clear the tables
46 Hosiery material
50 Result of a star's collapse
55 Time of your life?
56 Peru's capital
57 Stench
58 Expert
59 Squad
60 Nervous
61 Corral

Down

- 1 Tosses in
2 Albacore, e.g.
3 Repeat
4 Goes ashore
5 It starts with "http"
6 — Khan



53 Peculiar
54 Journal

► Yesterday's answer



Today's horoscope

♈ Aries March 21-April 20
You need to approach what you are working on in a more balanced way. Slow down a bit.
♉ Taurus April 21-May 21
With Mars on your side, you feel like you could take on the world and win. Maybe you can. Try it.
♊ Gemini May 22-June 21
The fact that you are the only one in your social group who takes a particular viewpoint does not mean you are wrong.
♋ Cancer June 22-July 22
You may have to act tough or in some other way apply pressure to get what you want.

♌ Leo July 23-Aug. 23
Life is good and getting better, so why are you still focusing on things that went wrong while ignoring things that went right?
♍ Virgo Aug. 24-Sept. 22
Mars in your sign turns retrograde in a few days, so focus energy on actually getting things done.
♎ Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23
You may be tempted to cut corners a bit today but if you do, you may regret it next week.
♏ Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22
You've never been the sort to worry what others think, and you're not about to change.

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

♐ Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21
Tackle a task or objective that you might not feel you're able to master at most other times.
♑ Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20
This is the perfect occasion to revisit something you failed at earlier. This time, you'll succeed.
♒ Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18
Seems you're having trouble keeping a desire of some sort under wraps. Why would you want to?
♓ Pisces Feb. 19-March 20
Because Mars is moving through your opposite sign at the moment, it may feel as if the whole world is against you. **• SALLY BROMPTON**

Sudoku



How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Yesterday's answer ►



Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, online at metronews.ca/kiss.

Her
It's hard for me to see you crying because he left you. But it is more painful to see myself crying because I love you yet I can't say it to you.
RON

Daniela
Daniil! Your the best! thanks fro beingggg theree for me always.. Love youuuuuuuuu so much!!! BFFF!
YOUR BEST FRIEND

mamabear
To my wonderful mother, It has been a wild 20 years. I'm so grateful to have you as my mother. Thanks for being there and being awesome. We can get through anything! We just have to fight it. Problems are just setbacks; speed bumps that slow us down :) I love you!!
DAUGHTERBEAR
*BigHead, u still make my heart go pitter patter. Some things never change. *BK*
KISSES* LOVE U, SPANKY

Today

7°/-9°
Variable

Thursday

-5°/-9°
Partly cloudy

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Caption contest



You write it!
WIN! Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in Thursday's Metro.

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